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HOUSE MEMORIAL 3

48TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2007

INTRODUCED BY

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FOR THE LEGISLATIVE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

A MEMORIAL

CREATING THE YOUNG CHILDREN AND FAMILIES CONTINUUM WORK GROUP.

WHEREAS, thriving children and families make New Mexico strong, and supporting their well-being is key; and

WHEREAS, a robust economy requires an educated workforce and investing in New Mexico's children is investing in New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, school success means higher levels of education, employment and home ownership and further translates to lower incidence of crime, drug abuse, unemployment and poverty; and

WHEREAS, school readiness of young children is a key strategy for ensuring school success and closing the achievement gap to make sure that children start school fully developed, healthy and prepared; and

WHEREAS, the most significant period of a person's brain

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1 growth and development occurs in the first five years with
2 major "windows of opportunity" through age six; and

3 WHEREAS, developmental conditions identified early in
4 life are easier and less costly to address; and

5 WHEREAS, economists at the federal reserve bank of
6 Minneapolis have determined through research that investment
7 in early childhood programs produces an annual rate of return
8 of sixteen percent;

9 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
10 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that a young
11 children and families continuum work group be appointed to
12 develop recommendations to improve access for families,
13 improve the lives of their children and set a foundation for
14 school and personal success; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the group be appointed
16 equally by the chair of the children's cabinet and the chair
17 and vice chair of the legislative health and human services
18 committee and include a diverse group of no more than sixteen
19 persons representing the early childhood action network; child
20 health and development, mental health, early care, education
21 and human services community providers; advocates, businesses
22 and faith communities; the media; academia; and child
23 development research fields; and

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the group include family
25 representatives and members representing the cultural, ethnic,

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1 economic and geographic diversity of the state and have
2 knowledge and experience of the health, mental health,
3 education and social needs of young children birth to age
4 eight and their families; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the group make priorities for
6 investment over the next three years to strengthen a
7 comprehensive statewide early childhood system to address the
8 following areas: family involvement and family support;
9 physical and mental health; early learning; child safety; and
10 transition from early childhood to school; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the group make
12 recommendations on a continuum of services to better
13 coordinate and link components of a comprehensive system; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the group report its
15 recommendations to the legislative health and human services
16 committee by the November 2007 meeting of the committee; and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
18 transmitted to the children's cabinet.